

Message Text

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47

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 FEA-02 INT-08 TRSE-00

OMB-01 CIEP-02 SCI-06 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 NEA-11 /181 W

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P R 081540Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2720

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

US MISSION OECD PARIS

US MISSION EEC BRUSSELS 387

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STATE ALSO FOR T/IEP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: NIGERIAN OIL POLICIES

REF: A. LAGOS 1052

B. LAGOS 1130

1. IN FEBRUARY 8 CONVERSATION WITH CHARGE, JAPANESE AMBASSADOR
ADDED SIGNIFICANT NUANCES TO OUR UNDERSTANDING OF NIGERIAN
ATTITUDE TOWARD WASHINGTON ENERGY CONFERENCE, SAYING THAT
HE BELIEVES NIGERIANS UNEASY AND NOT JUST NONCOMMITTAL. HE
ALSO CONFIRMED THAT JAPAN HAD PUT OUT FEELERS ABOUT POSSIBLE
OIL/EQUIPMENT DEAL.

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2. ALTHOUGH NOT YET ACCREDITED, AMBASSADOR HAS MANAGED HOUR LONG CONVERSATION WITH MINISTRY OF MINES AND POWER PERSEC PHILIP ASIODU. ACCORDING TO AMBASSADOR, ASIODU AT FIRST RESPONDED TO QUESTIONS ABOUT ENERGY CONFERENCE NONCOMMITTALLY, AND ADDED THAT HE SKEPTICAL ABOUT LIKELIHOOD OF CONCRETE RESULTS. ASIODU LATER CONFESSED TO CERTAIN UNEASINESS, APPARENTLY ON GROUNDS THAT IF CONCRETE RESULTS DOES EMERGE, THIS LIKELY TO TAKE FORM OF PHALANX OF CONSUMERS DETERMINED TO FACE DOWN PRODUCERS. ACCORDING AMBASSADOR, ADIODU ACTUALLY REFERRED TO POSSIBILITY OF MILITARY ACTION. IN RESPONSE AMBASSADOR'S QUESTION IF NIGERIA WOULD TAKE PART IN PRODUCER/CONSUMER MEETING, ASIUDU SAID YES BUT ADDED THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPIER IF SUCH MEETING TOOK PLACE UNDER FRENCH CONTROL RATHER THAN US. APPARENTLY INTENDED IMPLICATION WAS THAT FRENCH MORE LIKELY ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITH PRODUCERS AND US MORE LIKELY ENCOURAGE CONFRONTATION.

3. AMBASSADOR ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD AIRED POSSIBILITY OF PACKAGE DEAL INVOLVING INDUSTRIAL EQUIPMENT AND OIL BUT THAT ASIODU HAD SIDESTEPPED, OBSERVING THAT HE HAD HAD OCCASION CONSIDER SUCH DEALS IN HIS EARLIER SERVICE IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, BUT THAT HE NO LONGER SERVED IN MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT ASIODU SCHEDULED VISIT TOKYO IN APRIL AND HE SAID HE EXPECTED ASIODU MIGHT HAVE MORE TO SAY ON SUBJECT AT THAT TIME.

4. COMMENT: ASIODU IS NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENTATIVE OF FMG VIEWS, AND THERE IS PRESUMABLY SPECTRUM OF OPINION. HOWEVER, HE IS CONSIDERED MOST INFLUENTIAL NIGERIAN IN MATTERS OF OIL POLICY.
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